

Medical Care

Joint Task Force Guantanamo

Safe, Humane, Legal, Transparent



The Joint Medical Group conducts humane care of detainees. Equivalent healthcare is provided to detainees and Joint Task Force Troops.

The medical care provided to detainees at Guantanamo is consistent with what U.S. service members receive. JMG providers are on-call to provide care to all detainees regardless of disciplinary status, level of cooperation or legal status. The JMG operations are completely independent of Joint Detention Group and Joint Intelligence Group operations.



Detainees are treated at a dedicated medical facility with state-of-the-art equipment and an expert medical staff. The medical facility is equipped with 20 inpatient beds (expandable to 30), a physical-therapy area, pharmacy, radiology department, optometry exam area, dental treatment area, central sterilization area and an operating room. Navy Hospital Corpsmen visit each cellblock daily and upon the request of any detainee for care refer them to primary care providers in the Joint Medical Group. In addition to providing routine medical care, the hospital staff has treated detainees for wounds sustained prior to detention and other pre-existing medical conditions. More serious medical conditions can be treated at the U. S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo.

Additional specialists are available to provide care at Guantanamo for any medical needs that exceed the capabilities of the U. S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo. In addition to the detention hospital, there is a separate facility for dedicated mental health care. The medical staff conducts approximately 7,800 visits annually, including preventive mental health screenings. Mental health care also is available for detainees who request it.

Some detainees have been provided life-improving care such as receiving prosthetic limbs or having cataracts removed.

- Medical services are available to detainees 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- All detainees provide informed consent for procedures
- Detainee/healthcare ratio: 1 medical staff for every 2 detainees; 1 licensed provider for approximately 45 detainees (compare to U.S. national average of 1 primary care provider for every 390 citizens or in Afghanistan 1:5,300).
- Medications dispensed annually: 129,000
- Sick call visits annually: 2,700
- Provider appointments/visits annually: 2,200
- Tuberculosis (TB) screening conducted via Quantiferon testing – the most accurate TB testing method available.
- Age-appropriate colon cancer screening: 10 colonoscopies
- Annual dental procedures: 300 (to include cleanings, fillings, root canals and oral surgeries)
- Eye examinations: over 100 annually
- Physical therapy consults: about 125 annually
- Behavioral health services: Less than 8% of detainees have an active diagnosis of psychiatric illness. Inpatient and outpatient care available with more than 100 consults per year.
- Prosthetic devices - issued to six detainees. Quarterly visits by a prosthetic specialist.
- Available specialty consultative care: cardiology, entomology, gastroenterology, neurology, radiology, urology, dermatology, audiology, orthopedics, ophthalmology, optometry, podiatry, and pulmonologist.